Friday, *the* *18th April 1947.*
5th Medam 1122.

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at half-past eleven of the clock with the Hon'ble President (Mr. L. M. Pylee, M.A. & B.L.) in the Chair.

Dr. S. S. Rao, Mrs. T. Francis, Mrs. Dakshayani Velayudhan, Messrs. P. V. Sebastian, P. A. Mohammed Ashrof, M. O. Thomakutty, Jos. K. Verghese, K. A. Raghavan, S. S. Koder, T. V. Kochuvarced, T. K. L. Kunhuvareed, Parambi Lonappan, K. Balakrishna Menon, A. Eachara Menon, S. P. Luiz and P. E. Warne were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

AUTHORISED WEIGHTS AND MEASURES—FAIR PRICE SHOPS

410. Mr. Paramel Ipe Ipe *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether there is any order or proceedings by the Government authorising the use of weights and measures by the Government Fair Price Shops and Depots and ration shops other than those prescribed by the "Weights and Measures Act" ;

(*b*) if so, will the Government be pleased to print and place on the table a copy of the same ?

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):*

(*a*) No. The use of English pound avoirdupois is authorised as per the rules under the Weights and Measures Act.

(*b*) In view of the answer to (*a*) the question does not arise.

Mr. Paramel Ipe Ipe *(Kunnamkulam):* With regard to the use of English pounds is the authorisation restricted to fair price shops and depots ?

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* That is not what I said. The question is whether under the "Weights and Measures Act", if weights and measures other than those prescribed by the Act have to be used, then there should be authorisation. The rules under the Act authorise the use of English pounds and therefore English pound is used.

Mr. Paramel Ipe Ipe *(Kunnamkulam):* That is not my question. Whether the authorisation of English pounds is restricted only to fair price shops and depots ?

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* No. Anybody can use it.

FAIR PRICE SHOPS—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

411. Mr. Paramel Ipe Ipe *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) is there a general complaint that purchasers from Fair Price Shops and ration shops are not getting the correct weights or measures of the articles they purchase ;

(*b*) if so, what has the Government done to rectify this ?

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):*

(*a*) No.

(*b*) No answer is necessary in view of answer to (*a*).

Mr. Paramel Ipe Ipe (*Kunnamkulam*) : Whether the Government have verified the fact that the goods we get from the depots are generally of a lesser weight than that put on the Bill ?

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* There is a serious misapprehension in the matter. The persons who purchase sugar, jaggery, etc., from the fair price shops think that they are purchasing one Rathal which is equal to 42½ rupee weight, whereas they are purchasing only one pound which is only 38 8/9 rupee weight. Much of the complaint regarding underweight of articles purchased from the fair price shops is on account of this fact, that this matter is not clear to the purchaser. Before the fair price shops came into

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